



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **MAKINO, Masahiro**

Group Art Unit: **2833**

Serial No.: **10/556,358**

Examiner: **Travis Chambers**

Filed: **November 10, 2005**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 6746

For. **JOINT CONNECTOR BLOCK**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Date: July 12, 2007

Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination in response to the Final Office Action dated April 20, 2007. Prior to further examination, please amend the above-captioned patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims begin on Page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on Page 9 of this paper.